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# THE GULL



February 1985

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Number 67 Volume 67  
Berkeley, California  
Golden Gate Audubon Society

## FIVE LOCAL RAPTORS: HABITS AND HABITATS

The February Membership meeting will be in Berkeley, and will present Bill Stone, Curator of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum of Walnut Creek, and representatives of species to be discussed on this occasion. The museum is the home of the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation program to which GGAS has frequently referred people trying to save injured or orphaned birds.

Bill is a member of the Ohlone Audubon Society. An exciting evening is promised.

The meeting will be at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, on Thursday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, February 2 — Palo Alto Baylands. See Dec./Jan. Gull for details.

Sunday, February 3 — Bay Park Refuge, Oakland. See Dec./Jan. Gull for details.

Sunday, February 10 — San Mateo Coast. Meet at Pescadero Beach parking lot at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Rd. at 8 a.m. Please carpool to this point if possible; parking is limited. Bring lunch and clothes suitable for cold, wet and windy weather. We will look for wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Leader: Jon Zablackis (642-9121 days, 235-9150 eve). (✓)

Wednesday, February 13 — Mini-trip. Call Ruth Voss for details. (525-8032 between 6 and 10 p.m.)

Sunday, February 17 — Lake Merritt. Meet at 8 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonade. Trip ends at noon. Bring binoculars, field guide and scope if you have them. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range and to study their field identification. This trip is recommended for beginners. This trip is wheelchair accessible. Leader: Joan Zuwaski (893-8223 days, 530-2427 eve).

Note from the Field Trips Committee — Each year GGAS has had trips to Los Banos State Refuge and Panoche Valley. These popular trips have been arranged to allow people to attend both. Once again this year the leaders have agreed to lead the trips twice. We suggest that people who are interested in both trips spend Saturday night in Los Banos. The starting points

are arranged so that either trip may be selected on either day. If you plan to attend either or both of these trips, it is important that you call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) for additional details.

**Saturday/Sunday, February 23/24 — Los Banos State Refuge.** Meet at 8 a.m. at the refuge headquarters located 3 miles north of Los Banos on Henry Miller Rd. Allow 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 hours driving time from the Bay Area. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before the trip and carpool from the Bay Area if at all possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. We will look for White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles and assorted waterfowl.

Please call Shirley Kelley if you plan to attend this trip. (387-8290) This trip will be repeated with the same meeting place and time on Sunday. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White (229-1714). (✓)

**Saturday/Sunday, February 23/24 — Panoche Valley.** On Saturday meet at 8:00 a.m. at the reservoir on Hwy. 25,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Considering the distance involved in this trip be sure to fill your gas tank before the trip and carpool from the Bay Area if at all possible. In the past we havet seen Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Vesper Sparrow and Lewis' Woodpecker.

Please call Shirley Kelly if you plan to attend this trip. (387-8290). This trip will be repeated on Sunday in the reverse direction. On Sunday meet at

8:00 a.m. at the junction of Hwy. I-5 and Little Panoche Road south of Los Banos. Leader: Chris Carpenter (376-4630). (✓)

**Saturday, March 2 — San Pablo Reservoir.** Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of San Pablo Dam Rd. and Bear Creek Road. From Berkeley take Wildcat Canyon Rd. to its end (the meeting site). From Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit and go left on Camino Pablo to its end (the meeting site). We will hike about 1.5 miles along a paved road between the Maintenance Station and Midpoint Recreation Area. Birding will be in grasslands, pine and oak woodlands and streamside willows. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Sue and Bob Watson (254-4077). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 724-2116 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

**A SPRING WORKDAY AT THE RANCH** is announced on an advanced sign-up basis. Lunch will be provided. Telephone Edris at 383-1644.

## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

### OBSERVATIONS: Through December 27

November's seemingly incessant rains graded into a dryish and cold December. The pelagic red crabs lingering from the El Nino phenomenon attracted enormous feeding concentrations with such a low reproductive rate Arctic Loons to the Farallon Islands (PRBO) and Pacific Grove (mob).

The oil spill resulting from the explosion of the oil tanker Puerto Rican Oct. 31 killed a variety of seabirds. Of greatest concern were Common Murres, because this species has been hit very hard by drowning in gill nets and by El Nino disruptions of prey populations. Massive mortality can have very long-lasting effects on populations with such a low reproductive rate. We dread the possibility that the sunken stern of the Puerto Rican will chronically leak oil and other petrochemicals around SE Farallon and therefore repeatedly kill more murres and other seabirds.

#### PELAGICS

A Laysan Albatross highlighted a Dec. 1 Monterey pelagic trip (SJ). The period's best bird was seen from shore, a Mottled Petrel passing Pt. Pinos in a gale Dec. 12 (DR). This is only the second sighting of a healthy Mottled Petrel in California. Monterey Boat trips on Dec. 1 & 27 each recorded only about 25 Black-vented Shearwaters (SJ), far fewer than in October. However, they were "abundant" from Pescadero to Pigeon Pt. Nov. 11 (JM, et al.) and 876 were counted in a large feeding aggregation at Pigeon Pt. Dec. 7 (BS). The Dec. 1 Monterey boat recorded 30 Buller's Shearwaters (SJ), and the best day this fall for

this sometimes-abundant shearwater. The same trip produced two different Flesh-footed Shearwaters (SJ). A Flesh-footed Shearwater was the rarest of the amazing five species of shearwaters on the Monterey Bay Christmas Bird Count Dec. 27 (SJ). Even three shearwaters is excellent in winter.

Two South Polar Skuas off Monterey Dec. 1 (SJ) were late. Reasons for deep concern over the California Common Murre population are noted above. More evidence that concern is justified comes from this fall's many Monterey boat trips, all finding less than 10% of normal Murre numbers ((SJ, SFB, mob)!)

#### COASTAL WATERBIRDS

Normally at harbor mouths, three Red-necked Grebes on the Leo Ryan Park lagoon in Foster City Dec. 11-22 (CBe) and one on the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin Dec. 8-9 (CR, GW) were surprising. The male Harlequin Duck continued to inhabit Moss Landing (AHoch, et al.), and another was near Stinson Beach Dec. 23 (RS). Only two Oldsquaws were reported, at Fish Docks Dec. 8 (RS) and outside Princeton Harbor Dec. 8-22 (CS, et al.).

The Rock Sandpiper that winters at Pebble Beach in San Mateo Co. was refound there Nov. 11 and is still present (JM, mob). A female Ruff stopped at Doran Park, Bodega Bay, Nov. 19 (NTC).

An adult Little Gull was at Inverness and across Tomales Bay at Millerton Pt. Nov. 21-22 (RS, JE). The Little Gull, Franklin's Gull and Common Black-headed Gull remained at Stockton Sewage Ponds throughout the period (mob; mob; JML, et al.), although the latter was seldom seen. Dec. 5-24 there were two Franklin's Gulls present (DY, et al.). Another

Franklin's Gull was at Salinas Sewage Ponds Nov. 16 (RT). Two Glaucous Gulls were found in December. One spent the third week at Princeton Harbor (BS, GW) and the other was at the Davis Dump in Yolo Co. Dec. 23 (JML). Two immature Common Terns were reportedly well-documented at Santa Cruz Wharf Dec. 16 (BB, et al.).

## RAPTORS

Three Bald Eagles are wintering at Calaveras Reservoir and another at Crystal Springs Reservoir. These are traditional locations. A Broad-winged Hawk flew over Pacific Grove Nov. 5 (DR.)

## FIELD BIRDS

A big flight of Cattle Egrets began Nov. 6-11 and continued throughout the period (mob). They were unusually wide-spread, being reported from about 35 different sites, including eight in San Francisco during early December. Nevertheless, the largest flocks were only 30-35: flying south over Bodega Bay Nov. 11 (NTC), perhaps the same group at Valley Ford the same day (KFC), and near Ano Nuevo Reserve Dec. 7 (BS).

The Eurasian Skylark was last seen at Drakes Corners Nov. 4 (AG, WG). Thereafter it was undetected until it reappeared back at nearby Hall Ranch Dec. 15 (DDeS, et al.) and Dec. 27 (JP). A Sage Thrasher was along West Butte Rd. in Sutter Co. Dec. 1 (ED).

Palomarin's Northern Shrike killed itself by striking a window Nov. 2 (PRBO). Another adult Northern Shrike appeared near Ano Nuevo Reserve Dec. 7 (BS) and an immature was on Bay Farm Island Dec. 16-17 (DJ, AE, GB, JM).

Drakes Corners had a Chestnut-Colored Longspur and up to two Lapland Longspurs Nov. 3-8 (AG, WG). Spaletta Ranch had a "Lap" throughout the period (AG, WG, JP), and another was at Redwood Shores, San Mateo Co., Dec. 22 (fide BS).

## INSECTIVORES/FRUGIVORES

A "Red-naped" Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found Nov. 3 back in Strybing Arboretum where it wintered last year (LE). It is still present, though elusive.

Northern California's third Greater Peewee in Union City Dec. 23-28 (JEd, et al.) was also the second most northern record for this species. A Western Flycatcher was discovered in Sacramento Dec. 23 (DY). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers lingered and were found, at Temescal Creek Park in Oakland Dec. 14 (MP) and O'Neil Forebay Wildlife Area Dec. 20 (CB, EM, KFC, JZ).

Single Townsend's Solitaires were noted in Tilden Park Nov. 1 (NH) and on Eagle Peak of Mt. Diablo Nov. 19 (GF). A late Swainson's Thrush was banded on SE Farallon Island Nov. 14 (PRBO).

An unprecedented wintering Bell's Vireo was at Paper Mill Creek Bridge of Hwy. 1 south of Point Reyes Station Dec. 13-19 (RS, mob). I suspect that it is more likely a member of the race *arizonae* than the endangered California race *pusillus*, which used to nest commonly in the Central Valley. A Solitary Vireo of the Pacific race *cassinii* was at the Olema Ranch Campground Dec. 23 (RM). The total of eight Hutton's Vireos in the Los Banos area Dec. 19-20 was very unusual (KFC, CB).

Christmas Count activity yielded Tennessee Warblers at Point Reyes Station Dec. 16 (RS) and Middle Lake

in Golden Gate Park Dec. 27 (JM, et al.). The Virginia's Warbler at Pine Gulch Creek Nov. 3-4 (BSt, et al.) was not only rare but late. A Yellow Warbler moved between North and Middle Lakes of Golden Gate Park Dec. 27 (JM, et al.). The **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Olema Ranch Campground Dec. 12-23 was only the second definitely **yellow-lored** individual in California (RS, mob).

Ten reports of Palm Warblers totalled twelve individuals: Pine Gulch Creek Oct. 27-Nov. 4 (BSt, et al.), Carmel River Mouth Nov. 3 (AHoch, et al.), two at Spinnaker Lagoon in San Rafael Nov. 7 (DT), Berkeley Nov. 11 (JW), Moss Landing Nov. 11 (DW), Hall Ranch Nov. 17 (BDP), Strybing Arboretum Nov. 17 (AH), Corte Madera Marsh Nov. 25-Dec. 23 (HK, et al.), two at Bodega Bay Dec. 14 (KFC), and near Point Reyes Station Dec. 14 (BL). These raised the "fall" totalled to only 33 Palm Warblers.

A Black-and-white Warbler toured Sanchez Adobe Historical Monument in Pacifica Nov. 13 (SS). Antonelli Pond in Santa Cruz has had a Northern Waterthrush wintering since early November (CF, et al.). Wilson's Warblers showed up on two Christmas Counts: at Inverness Park Dec. 15 (DS, et al.) and in the Santa Rosa area. A late Yellow-breasted Chat was at Coyote Point, San Mateo, Nov. 4 (JR).

Single Summer Tanagers in San Francisco at the Zoo Nov. 23 (JZ) and at Middle Lake from Nov. 30 (JMu) were both in female plumage. The female **Great-tailed Grackle** was still in San Francisco Aquatic Park Nov. 23 (DW). Of the three Northern Orioles reported, there were two "Baltimore's", a male in Milbrae Dec. 22 (RS, fide BS) and a female at Middle Lake, CA. Dec. 22-Dec. 27 (LCB, JM,

et al.). The lone "Bullock's" was in Santa Cruz Dec. 16.

#### GRANIVORES

Bodega Bay's "Owl Canyon" had a White-winged Dove Dec. 1 (JML).

A Sage Sparrow of the Pacific race *belli* chose a bizarre place to spend Dec. 9-23, Emeryville Marina (JG, et al.) The mouth of Pine Gulch Creek is a traditional wintering spot for Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. One Sharp-tail has been there since Nov. 9 (BL, mob) and two Swamps since Nov. 4 (GWA). Our other Sharp-tailed Sparrow report was from Limantour along the trail to Muddy Hollow Dec. 21 (LS). Additional Swamp Sparrows were found at Spinnaker Lagoon in San Rafael Nov. 7-21 (DT), Napa River Ecological Preserve Nov. 28 (MB), Sharp Park Golf Course pond Dec. 27 (BH, et al.), and two as usual in Olema Marsh Dec. 15 on (RS, JP).

Red Crossbills remain numerous in forested parts of Marin County, and smaller flocks persist in the East Bay Hills (mob). Elsewhere, there were twelve at Fish Docks Nov. 8, 50 at Butano State Park Nov. 3 (DSe), and over 200 along the adjacent Gazos Creek Rd. from Dec. 7 (BS). Eight Evening Grosbeaks were also at Gazos Creek Rd. Dec. 7 (BS). Up to 41 Lawrence's Goldfinches have frequented Napa River Ecological Preserve since Sept. 23, with 37 counted there Nov. 28 (MB).

**Errata:** In last issue's column six errors require correction. Under "Anseriformes", a male Harlequin Duck returned to Moss Landing in mid-October. The date of the South Polar Skua west of SE Farallon Island was Oct. 28. The following sentence should read, "At Stockton Sewage Ponds, both the **Common black-headed Gull** and the **Little Gull** returned for at

least their seventh consecutive winter." The date of the first Franklin's Gull there was Oct. 17. The Broad-billed Hummingbird was Northern California's third, not second as I stated. In the observers, "Mike Webber should read "Marc Webber".

Observers: Steve Abbors, Stephen F. Bailey, Bruce Barrett, Chris Benesch (CBe), Murray Berner, Laurence C. Binford, George Bing, Clarke Blake (CB), Neil Blank, Kurt F. Campbell, Graham Chisholm, Nancy T. Conzett, Steve Cooper, Dave DeSante, Elizabeth Dickey, Jim Edgar (JEd), Art Edwards, Lee Elias, Jules Evans (JE), George Finger, Doris Foote, Carolyn Fredericksen, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Doug Gomke, Phil Gordon, Jeff Greenhouse, Peggy Gross, Earl Haulala, Nancy Hillyard, Bob Hirt, Alice Hoch (AHoch), Alan Hopkins (AH), Richard Ives, Dick Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Harrison Karr, Jeri M. Langham, Bill Lenarz, John Luther, many observers (mob), Ed Matthews, Robin May, Elton Morel (EM), Joseph Morlan (JM), Janet Murphy (JMu), Miranda Nelson, Bess Nericcio, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Phil Henderson), Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Michael Perrone (MP), Marjorie Plant, Cliff Richer, Bob Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Janet Rosen, Marilyn Russell, Barry Sauppe (BS), Al Schmitz, Don Schmoldt, David Sedgin (DSe), Dave Shuford (DS), Larry Silver, Scott Smithson, Malcolm Sproul, Rich Stallcup, Bob Stewart (BSt), Nick Story, Chris Swarth, Ron Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, George Wallace (GWa), Gil West (GW), Jack Whetstone, David Wimpfheimer, David Yee, Jon Zablackis.

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Alert 843-2211 to report observations.)

## CONSERVATION NOTES

### An Environmental Compromise

As reported in earlier issues of The GULL, the Sunol Regional Wilderness Park, home to Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Prairie Falcons, Tule Elk and much other wildlife, is about to be invaded by a quarry on adjacent Apperson Ridge. The quarry and its haul out road will seriously threaten this wildlife. Because of intense opposition from environmental groups, including GGAS, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors imposed several conditions on the de Silva Company: 1) \$.05 per ton of quarry rock to be paid to the East Bay Regional Park District by de Silva (\$3-8 million over 80 years), 40% for purchase of 3000 acres around Sunol and/or Ohlone Regional Park, 25% for the eventual purchase of the rest of the Apperson property; 2) de Silva would pay \$80,000 for the creation of an Alameda County Ridge-lands Birds of Prey Preserve in this area. This preserve concept was originated by our own Tom White and the GGAS Conservation Committee representatives spoke for it at several Board of Supervisors meetings.

The above conditions far from satisfied the conservation community. A Birds of prey Preserve would not get for on \$80,000. A lawsuit was initiated. The de Silva Company therefore negotiated with the Apperson Ridge Task-force and we won further and important settlements: 1) de Silva will fund (up to \$60,000) the introduction of

three pairs of Peregrine Falcons into southern Alameda County, 2) fund continuing raptor research in this area and 3) de Silva will also contribute \$.01 per ton to a non-profit organization consisting of the Audubon Society (Ohlone chapter with GGAS in an advisory role), the Sierra Club and EBRPD. These funds will be used to protect (through purchase or open space easement) lands critical to the creation of the Alameda County Ridge-lands Birds of Prey Reserve.

Is this compromise justified? Will it offset the probable loss of Bald Eagles and other wildlife? We hope so. Tom White who has worked on this issue presents these questions in the following letter.

— ART FEINSTEIN

### The Raptor's Dilemma

The recent compromise between environmental groups and the Oliver de Silva Company regarding Apperson Ridge quarry on lands adjacent to Sunol Regional Wilderness raises complex questions instead of resolving the issue. Can wildlife, in particular, the eagles that inhabit the area, coexist with an industry that blasts, gouges out and hauls away the earth? Art Feinstein and I, representing GGAS this summer at Alameda Co. permit proceedings, said no. We maintained that such interference with this sensitive, unique area would drive away the eagles. We believe, also, that the nature experience for any visitor to Sunol, with its beauty and serenity, would be so utterly degraded that it warranted the removal of the word "wilderness" from the park's name.

Meanwhile, another question provokes thought: in the face of such a loss, should it occur, how can we measure the gains made by the Apperson Ridge Taskforce in its negotiations with the de Silva Company? How to weigh the ideal of unspoiled nature

against tangible achievements won at the bargaining table?

We congratulate the Taskforce on its successful, historic agreement with de Silva, one that provides funds for the reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons into the area, for continuing raptor study in the wake of inevitable encroachment upon the bird's territory, and for land acquisition to prevent further development on or near Sunol. We applaud the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' decision that the funds realized from such mitigation are to be administered by a tripartite committee composed of the East Bay Regional Park District, the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society (Ohlone Chapter).

Ideally, it is hoped that these provisions will lead to the establishment of a raptor sanctuary amidst classic California scenery, a wilderness oasis preserved from and for an ever-expanding suburbia.

Still, if this precedent-setting compromise is an indication of a closer rapport between environmental and developmental forces in the future, we are concerned about the degree and extent to which we can negotiate before it turns into wheeling and dealing at the expense of nature.

In the present case, we pray that the raptors will ultimately benefit from such a plan. The nagging worry is: can these sensitive birds of prey tolerate the intrusion of a quarry into their habitat? And if not, what then?

—THOMAS P. WHITE  
Conservation Committee Member

### BIRD SEED SALE PROCEEDS

About \$1800, proceeds from our successful first bird seed sale, were allocated to the Conservation Committee

by the Board. Putting this money to immediate use, we have sent Mono Lake Legal Fund \$700. We have also given \$700 to the Edgewood Park legal fund (organized by the California Native Plant Society). Edgewood Park is 400 acres of serpentine grasslands located in San Mateo Co. It hosts a large number of birds and in the spring has an impressive array of wildflowers. San Mateo Co. wants to turn this priceless area into a golf course. A future GULL will publish an article on this effort, and at that time solicit your letters of support.

Our thanks go to all those who bought seed, helped run the sale, and to Merrit Anderson at Ohs' Bulk Foods who supplied the seed and was of considerable help.

#### **Letters Needed for Sea Otters**

Today otters continue to drown off San Simeon, Cayucos, Morrow Bay, Avila and Shell Beach, while net boats are moving ever deeper into the Big Sur Coast.

By allowing such fishing activities to continue federal and state wildlife agencies are currently in clear violation of both the Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts. State legislation to remove these nets from shallow waters of the otter range offers the quickest remedy.

Please send short, strong letters urging fast passage of Sen. Maddy's SB89 to your own State Senator and Assemblyman, as well as to Senator Robert Presley, Assemblyman Jim Costa and Gov. George Deukmejian, Attn. Allan Zaremburg. The legislation will be carried in the Assembly by Assemblyman Seastrand. It would keep entangling fishing nets outside the 15-fathom depth curve throughout the sea otter range.

#### **THE BACK YARD BIRDER**

Anyone with any type of bird feeder might think that birds not only eat to live but that birds live to eat. Considering the number of hours spent on food-related activities this would be a reasonable assumption. The urge to feed is instinctual and is nearly continuous.

When the precocial chicks of ducks, sandpipers and gallinaceous birds are born they start pecking immediately and learn by trial and error and by some parental example what is good to eat. Hunting and feeding behavior in altricial birds must be practiced. Teaching by the parents is apparently limited to encouragement, but young birds do learn where to find food in their natal area.

Birds in general will eat practically anything organic as well as sand, pebbles, shells, salt and/or water. Only man-made plastic seems to be totally unappetizing. Some species which are thought to be vegetarian even include protein in their diets from time to time.

Depending upon food availability, their species, their age, where they live, and what is acceptable, birds will eat many different things. A few species, such as the Snail Kites (formerly the Everglade Kite), who prefer freshwater snails only, are so fussy that their very existence is at stake. Fortunately, most birds have more flexible tastes, ensuring their survival. As an example, the eelgrass beds of the east coast were struck by a plague in the 1930's and the Brant population, which fed on this one plant, declined drastically. Luckily, the Brant developed more catholic tastes in the nick of time. Gulls have survived nicely because they are nearly omnivorous, eating all kinds of plant material, live

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## EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS PROGRAM

Golden Gate Audubon Society is pleased to announce the inauguration of a program of extended field trips for its members and friends. These tours will focus on many areas of natural history with an emphasis on birding. GGAS intends to provide these trips at reasonable prices, with a portion of the tour price going to GGAS as a tax deductible donation. Each month the Gull will publish a list of trips scheduled. Further information about any tour, including detailed itineraries may be obtained by calling or writing the GGAS office.

Chris Carpenter, a GGAS member for over twelve years, will be organizer of these trips. In the last four years Chris has organized and been leader of tours to Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Texas and Mexico. Each of these trips was a resounding success and we expect Chris will provide our membership with well organized tours. Some tours will have Chris as leader and others will be led by other skilled birders and tour leaders familiar with the natural history of each area.

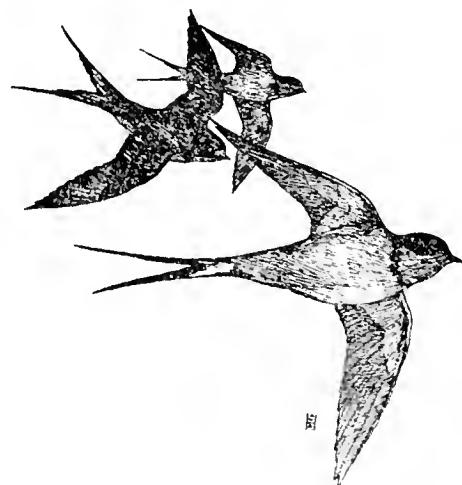
### Tour Conditions

Tours will be scheduled for the best time of year in each area. Group size will range from six to twenty members plus leaders. Tour prices include airfare or ground transportation from San Francisco to destination and return, all internal flights and ground transportation, accommodations in double rooms (single accomodations will be made where possible, if requested and at extra cost), trip materials and services of leaders. Meals are not included on tours in the US and Canada unless specifically noted in the itinerary. Meals are included in all other

tours unless specifically excluded. Items not included are passport costs, visas, airport taxes, immunizations, excess baggage charges, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Reservations for weekend trips require a nonrefundable deposit of \$25. Reservations for tours require a deposit of \$200, of which \$25 is nonrefundable. Reservations with deposit are accepted in order of their receipt by mail. Payment of the balance of the trip cost is due sixty days before departure. Refunds for cancellations are made as follows: if notice of cancellation is received more than 60 days before departure, the deposit less \$25 is refunded; if cancellation is received less than 60 days before departure only separable costs will be refunded.

Each tour will have a detailed itinerary and list of conditions. Reservations must be made on forms provided. GGAS reserves the right to cancel any tour and to decline to accept or retain any tour member.



# 1985 GGAS EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS

## TEXAS SPRING MIGRATION — Apr. 20 - May 4, 1985

Spring migration in Texas is a true nature spectacle. Falloouts of thousands of birds fill the trees of the Texas coast with a riot of colors. The last GGAS Texas trip had 32 species of warblers, all three species of eastern thrush, in one grove of trees and 40 Scarlet Tanagers and equal number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in a yard in Corpus Christi. The tour covers the Austin hill country, the Rio Grande Valley, and the Upper Coast and East Texas. Leaders: TBA. Price \$1475.

## DEATH VALLEY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

May 24 - 27, 1985

What? Never been to Deep Springs, Oasis or Furnace Creek Ranch! Join us at the height of the spring migration as we head for the desert oases in search of rarities such as the Mississippi Kite, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Bobolink, Red-eyed Vireo and Golden-winged Warbler, all of which have been seen in the last two years. Leader Chris Carpenter. price \$120.



## SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA — July 20 - 29, 1985

The summer rains bring cooling weather and rare birds to Arizona's spectacular mountain country. The tour visits Chino Canyon, Patagonia, Mile High Ranch, the Huachuca and the Chiricahua Mountains. Possibilities include Rose-throated Becard, Montezuma Quail, Elegant Tropic, Sulfur-bellied Flycatcher, Olive and Red-faced Warbler, and as many as ten species of hummingbird, including White-eared, Berylline, Violet-crowned, Blue-throated and Magnificent. Tour leaders: Joe Morlan and Garth Alton. Price \$945.

## **SAN DIEGO PELAGIC — Sept. 6 - 9, 1985**

There are some California pelagic birds that can only be seen with regularity in the south. This weekend trip will take us by boat to San Clemente Island where we will hope to find Red-billed Tropicbird, as well as Leach's Storm-petrel, Long tailed Jaeger and Sabine's Gull. Other days will be spent at migration traps such as Point Loma and the Tijuana River Valley. Leaders: Brad Goodhart and Chris Carpenter. Price \$240.



## **KENYA — Oct. 9 - 23, 1985**

One of the greatest wildlife spectacles on earth is found in this friendly country. Vast herds of animals, sweeping vistas and hundred of species of birds are preserved in numerous parks and game preserves. The climate is mild, food and accomodations are superb and the roads are good. Mammals such as lion, cheetah, zebra, elephant, giraffe, antelope and rhino will be just as much a part of this trip as the birds. The tour also visits coastal areas near Mombasa, where we may also do some snorkeling and sailing. Leader: Chris Carpenter. Price \$3075.

## **SOUTHERN MEXICO — Nov. 16 - Dec. 1, 1985**

This is a visit to the best of all bird worlds - the tropics - and to the past. We'll search for such exciting birds as Resplendent Quetzal, Dwarf Jay, Pinnated Bittern, and Aplomado Falcon. Our birding starts at the remains of the Zapotec Indian city of Monte Alban and ends at the spectacular Mayan ruins of Palenque, where the rain forest harbors an incredible diversity of birds. The tour covers desert, thorn forest, pine woodlands, seashore and the magnificent Sumidero Canyon. Leaders: Chris Carpenter and Lina Prairie. Price \$1995.

invertebrates and vertebrates, as well as carrion and waste products.

Since most of our songbirds and other species migrate, their diets will vary as far as types of insects and types of protein. Obviously the insect and plant life of South America is different from North America. Non-migratory species have adapted their feeding habits to whatever is available on the menu.

Generally, smaller species must eat almost constantly because they tend to have a higher metabolic rate, consuming a large proportion of their weight per day. e.g. An eagle may eat two pounds of meat a day but this is only about a quarter of its body weight. A hummingbird consumes only a half an ounce of food per day but this is two times its weight!

Since low temperatures require more effort to maintain sufficient body temperature, birds tend to eat more in cold weather and less in hot. Although we have more natural food in wintertime in our area than in the more inclement areas, it is still important to keep your feeders filled once birds have become dependent upon your handouts.

— MEG PAULETICH

## **AN ADAPTATION OF FEEDING HABITS BY THE SNOWY EGRET**

Among the approximately 40 Snowy Egrets and 40 Greater Egrets that were fledged in the summer of 1984 at the Lake Merritt, Oakland island colony there was again an intense competition for food, once the parents had tapered off feeding. Over 60 Black-crowned Night Heron young were add-

ed to this impact on local food sources. Nevertheless, the naturalist staff and this observer were surprised to see Snowy Egret immatures, though only singly, fly-catching in the duck-feeding area in August and September 1984. This became a daily occurrence. Several species of flies attracted to droppings on the gravel and unconsumed lettuce were taken. This practice stopped when the young egrets began to forage farther afield or found more fish in this salt-water lake. Young night herons took left-over meat scraps. A Cattle Egret, listed as a rare transient at the Lake, appeared briefly in mid-summer and again for a longer stay in November-December, 1984. Could this bird have inspired an imitation of its fly-catching habit by the immature Snowy Egrets?

— PAUL F. COVEL

Oakland Naturalist Emeritus

## **THE LIVING DESERT OF ISRAEL**

The Judah Magnes Museum is host until Feb. 10 to a show of desert wildlife photographs by Israeli artist Yosi Eshbol. This is the first exhibit in this country by Israel's environmental organization, the Society for the Protection of Nature. This might be, as well, a first time that many Bay Area environmentalists see the Magnes Museum, the gardens of which were designed by John McLaren, designer of Golden Gate Park and of Lithia Park at Ashland, Oregon.

Admission is free. The Magnes Museum is located at 2911 Russell St., St., Berkeley. (One block north of Ashby, between College and Claremont Aves.) Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday through Friday. For information phone 849-2710.

## SPRING BIRDING CLASSES IN S. F.

Free evening bird classes will be offered through the John Adams Community College Center starting in January. Open enrollment permits students to enroll at any time during the 18-week semester. Just go directly to the classroom, Room 227, Marina Middle School, corner of Bay and Filmore St., on the day and hour listed below. Free parking is available in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

Each class consists of a two-and-a-half hour illustrated slide lecture stressing identification, status and habits of North American birds. The text for all classes is *FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA* by the National Geographic Society. It is available from the GGAS office, 1550 Shattuck Ave, Room 204, Berkeley, CA 94709; (843-2222). The instructor is Joseph Morlan, co-author of *BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA* and compiler of the weekly recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert".

Ornithology I is an introduction to avian biology for those with no previous birding experience. It stresses concepts in behavior, population ecology and evolution illustrated primarily by common Bay Area birds. It meets Tuesdays starting Jan. 15 - 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology II is for those who already know most of the common birds and who wish to sharpen their field skills. It is an in-depth systematic treatment of the identification and status of waterbirds including waterfowl, rails and shorebirds. It meets Wednesdays starting Jan. 16 - 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology III is a continuation of Ornithology II. It will cover land-birds

including gamebirds, pigeons, cuckoos, owls, nightjars, swifts and hummingbirds. It meets Thursdays starting Jan. 17 - 7-9:30 p.m.

These classes are sponsored by GGAS and all evening classes are free of charge. Optional field trips will be arranged on weekends. The fee for field trips is \$30 for eight half-day trips; details will be discussed in class. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. For more information call the college at 346-7044 or 239-3070.

## PIEDMONT BIRD CLASS

Dr. Michael Perrone will again offer a birding class through Piedmont Adult School. The Course, sponsored by GGAS will focus on identification of East Bay waterbirds by their behavior, habitats, appearance and voice. It includes six evening classroom lectures, illustrated with color slides, and several morning bird walks. Field trip details will be announced in class. Bring a bird guide to class, preferably the National Geographic Society guide (available through the GGAS office) or the Golden guide by Robbins et al.

For Information call Piedmont Adult School, 653-9454 or 658-3679 day or night. The class started in January and ends Sat. Feb. 23. Late enrollments are possible. It will meet at Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Ave.

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

For the past 23 years the Board of Audubon Canyon Ranch has conducted successful property acquisitions, fund raising, and educational programs at

its three preserves. To further enrich and redefine future goals, the Board decided to call on outside planners for a professional overlook at all of our activities. With the help of the San Francisco Foundation, the planning and fundraising firm, Augment, was chosen for this purpose.

Many persons were involved in this review process: all members of the Board, the staff, and members of the Volunteer Council of the Bolinas Preserve and of the Bouverie Preserve. Individual and group interviews were arranged and the process culminated in a two day retreat at the Ranch's Volunteer Canyon. At the retreat subjects were chosen by participants who then explored the ideas in small study groups, pleasantly intermingled with food and drink.

In the next few months Augment staff will be evaluating all of this information and early in 1985 they will report their findings. The Board expects this process to create an even more flourishing Audubon Canyon Ranch.

In addition to maintaining wildlife sanctuaries and education centers, Audubon Canyon Ranch works to support programs in the public domain. It is a member of the Bolinas Technical Advisory Committee set up by the Marin County Board of Supervisors to monitor the health of this aqueous preserve. In 1984 the Board, with PRBO and the Point Reyes-Farallon Natural Marine Sanctuary, sponsored a symposium on the Lagoon which attracted great attendance and much interest.

The docents of the Volunteer Councils continue to provide free quality nature education programs to the children of the North Bay, San Francisco and the East Bay, including

many inner city children. Grants for free bus transport are provided where needed.

At Volunteer Canyon impaired persons form the San Francisco Center for the Handicapped are provided nature walks focusing on sounds, smells, farm activities and nature films. A year-long program of exchange training has been offered to the California Conservation Corps leaders in nature awareness, techniques for handling disturbed areas, etc.

At Bouverie Audubon Preserve, in addition to docent and school programs, groups of house bound seniors are given nature walks with interpretive guides and groups of the blind are led through to experience smells and sounds. Community days are also held for the general public.

## BIRDS IN ART

An exhibition of 60 paintings and sculptures, "Birds in Art", sponsored by Gulf Oil, a Chevron subsidiary, will be at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park through **February 24, 1985**. Wading birds, songbirds, birds of prey, waterfowl and gamebirds are included in sculpture, graphics and painting. San Francisco is one of a few cities selected for this traveling exhibit. There is an attractive catalog of the show. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

## COOPER SOCIETY

At the next monthly meeting of the Northern Chapter, COS, February 4, 1985 Pamela Williams, a doctoral student at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, U.C. Berkeley will present a seminar entitled "Social Organization

in Breeding Northern Orioles." Pamela has studied these birds for the last seven years at Hastings Natural History Reservation in Monterey County, California, and her talk is sure to be enlightening.

The seminar will meet in room 2503 Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley, at 8 p.m. and will be preceded at 7:45 p.m. by a brief business meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society. Everyone interested in birds is encouraged to attend.



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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

# —SECOND CLASS MATTER



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

**The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**